

Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 PC-04 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 241800Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2728

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4203

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: GONZALEZ MARTEN - PRESIDENTIAL RACE

REF: SAN JOSE 3720

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL SOMOZA, OCTOBER 22, SOMOZA TOLD ME IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY BOTH ODUBER AND TERJOS AND FEELERS HAD BEEN PUT OUT TO HIM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MARTEN, REGARDING THE UPCOMING ELECTION. SOMOZA SAID THAT IT WAS HIS PRESENT OPINION THAT NEITHER MARTEN OR TERJOS WERE LIKELY WINNERS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AND THAT HE FELT THAT ODUBER WOULD HAVE BY FAR THE BEST CHANCE. HE SAID THAT ODUBER HAD MET WITH HIM AND HAD ASKED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH SOMOZA INDICATED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME HE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE. HE SAID THAT ODUBER DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH HIM, HAD INDICATED THAT BOTH OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES WERE OF THE OPINION THAT HE (SOMOZA) MIGHT BE WILLING TO ASSIST THEM FINANCIALLY AND HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS THAT EACH OF THEM CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS WHICH WOULD TEND TO KEEP THEM "SCRAMBLING FOR MONEY", AND THUS AVOIDING A COALITION. SOMOZA REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NEITHER PROMISED, NOR GIVEN, ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TERJOS OR MARTEN.

2. FYI: IT IS NOT ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE THAT IF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

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SHOULD CHANGE PRIOR TO THE ELECTION THAT SOMOZA MIGHT CHANGE HIS

MIND AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING EITHER OF THE OPPOSITION
CANDIDATES TO ODUBER. END FYI.
SHELTON

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NNN

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